

Claims:

1. A cap facility for a medical cable having an elongated terminal body with a free end defining a rimmed chamber containing electrical contacts, the facility comprising:
 - a frame operable for connection to the terminal;
 - an arm pivotally connected to the frame at a pivot axis;
 - the arm movable between a first closed position and a second open position;
 - the arm having a cap adapted to enclose the rimmed chamber when the arm is in the closed position;
 - the arm being biased to the closed position.
2. The facility of claim 1 wherein the terminal body defines a terminal axis, and the pivot axis intersects the terminal axis.
3. The facility of claim 1 wherein the arm includes an actuator extending generally away from the cap at an obtuse angle.
4. The facility of claim 1 including an unsealing mechanism operable in response to initial motion of the arm from the closed position to move the cap away from the rim on a path that deviates from an arc defined by the pivot axis.
5. The facility of claim 4 wherein the unsealing mechanism includes a cam surface on at least one of the arm and the frame, the cam surface having a selected portion having a first surface portion offset at an angle from an arcuate surface defined by the pivot axis.
6. The facility of claim 5 wherein the frame includes a contact element offset from the pivot axis, the arm includes an arcuate surface concentric with the pivot axis and operable to contact the contact element when the arm is pivoted, and wherein the arcuate surface defines a recess sized to receive the contact element when the arm is in the closed position.
7. The facility of claim 6 wherein the cap follows a generally arcuate path defined by the pivot axis between the closed position and the open position, except that

the cap follows an initial path portion adjacent to the closed position, the initial path portion deviating from the arcuate path such that the cap moves away from the rim when departing from the closed position.

8. The facility of claim 1 wherein the pivotal connection of the arm to the frame includes free play enabling the arm to move a **limited** amount in a direction perpendicular to the pivot axis.
9. The facility of claim 8 wherein the arm is biased to the frame in a direction perpendicular to the pivot axis, such that arm **motion** in a direction perpendicular to the pivot axis is **limited** except in response to an application of force.
10. A self-sealing medical cable assembly having a terminal defining a rimmed chamber containing electrical contacts comprising:
 - a frame operable for connection to the terminal;
 - an arm connected to the frame;
 - the arm movable between a first closed position and a second open position;
 - the arm being biased to the closed position;
 - the arm having a cap adapted to enclose the rimmed chamber when the arm is in the closed position;
 - the cap having an arcuate motion path between the open position and an intermediate position proximate to the closed position;
 - the cap having an initial motion path deviating from the arcuate path, such that the cap moves away from the rim **initially** upon departing from the closed position.
11. The cable assembly of claim 10 wherein the arm is pivotally connected to the frame at a pivot axis defining the arcuate path.
12. The cable assembly of claim 11 wherein the terminal body defines a terminal axis, and the pivot axis intersects the terminal axis.
13. The cable assembly of claim 10 wherein the arm includes an actuator extending generally away from the cap at an obtuse angle.

14. The cable assembly of claim 10 including a cam surface on at least one of the arm and the frame, the cam surface having a selected portion having a first surface portion offset at an angle from an arcuate surface defined by the pivot axis.
15. The cable assembly of claim 11 wherein the frame includes a contact element offset from the pivot axis, the arm includes an arcuate surface concentric with the pivot axis and operable to contact the contact element when the arm is pivoted, and wherein the arcuate surface defines a recess sized to receive the contact element when the arm is in the closed position.
16. The cable assembly of claim 11 wherein the pivotal connection of the arm to the frame includes free play enabling the arm to move a limited amount in a direction perpendicular to the pivot axis.
17. The cable assembly of claim 16 wherein the arm is biased to the frame in a direction perpendicular to the pivot axis, such that arm motion in a direction perpendicular to the pivot axis is limited except in response to an application of force.